

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 55 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 48, 51, 54, 57 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 02/19919 (WO '919). Claims 59 and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,562,832 to Wilder et al. Claims 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO '919. Claims 59 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO '919 in view of Wilder et al.

In response to the Office Action, claim 55 has been amended and claim 56 cancelled to avoid the rejection of claims 55-56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

In response to the rejection by WO '919, claim 48 has been amended to define the shape of the light duct splaying from a non-flattened form to a flattened section at the emission end of the light duct. In addition, the light duct has been defined as including "a shielding member protective of and conforming to all of the light duct over the curving intermediate region of the main structural member." Further, the shielding member is "protective of at least most of the light duct extending beyond the curving intermediate region towards the distal region of the main structural member."

With reference to WO '919, the element 49 referred to in the rejection is a shaft-shaped member. With reference to page 11, lines 9-11, the shaft-shaped member is specifically described as being exposed with reference to "the second elongate outer surface 46 and the second elongate inner surface 48 correspondingly are eliminated as the second elongate section 40 tapers into the shaft-shaped member 49."

Therefore, with reference to Fig. 1, it is shown that the shaft-shaped member 49 is totally exposed and is contrary to the present invention defining a specific shape structure of the light duct and a shielding member protective of and conforming to all of the light duct over the curving intermediate region of the main structural member. Shielding member 65 is shown to be spaced from and failing to protect the shaft-shaped member 49 as is shown by the exposed shaft-shaped member 49 in Fig. 1 and in greater detail in Fig. 3.

Accordingly, the present invention as defined in amended claim 48 is patentably distinguished over WO '919.

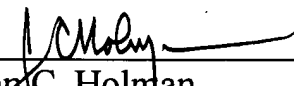
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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